

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-15 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 are independent.

Claims 1, 2 and 9-15 have been withdrawn from consideration, claims 4 and 8 have been canceled, and claims 3, 5 and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 13, 2001, and for providing Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 1, 2 and 9-15 from further consideration. Upon allowance, Applicant will cancel non-elected claims 1, 2 and 9-15. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to claims 1, 2 and 9-15 at a later date if so desired.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the structure claimed in claim 3 must be shown.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicant is concurrently submitting Proposed Drawing Corrections for the Examiner's approval, which address each of the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,306,289 to Lumley.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully

submits that claim 8 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) moot.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 7 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in an instruction decoding unit in a microcomputer including, a user instruction selector selecting or changing the instructions decoded by the decoder in response to a selection by a user. Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 7 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Lumley.

The Examiner asserts that Lumley discloses a user instruction selector selecting or changing the instructions decoded by the decoder in response to a selection by a user. As described in Col. 6, lines 48 to 62 and shown in Fig. 9 of Lumley, an input of the ROM or EPROM is connected to the instruction register with 8 address lines and its output is connected to the instruction decoder with 8 data lines. Namely, the instructions, which will be decoded, are inputted to the instruction decoder through the ROM or EPROM. However, the user instruction selector receives the instructions, which (in the case of the Applicant's claimed invention) are already decoded by the instructor decoder. Therefore, Lumley does not disclose the Applicant's claimed user instruction selector, according to the combination of elements recited above in independent claim 7 (as amended).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this art grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lumley (U.S. Patent No. 4,306,289) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter, referred to as AAPA).

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) moot.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 3 has been amended to recite a combination of steps in an instruction decoding unit in a microcomputer including, a user instruction selector selecting or changing the micro-instructions of the micro-ROM in response to a selection by a user so as to change the operation of an instruction word. Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of steps as set forth in independent claim 3 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Lumley.

The Examiner asserts that Lumley discloses an instruction code selector,

connected between the instruction register and the instruction decoder, allowing a user to select a signal corresponding to at least one of a plurality of instruction maps wherein said instruction code selector is operable to encrypt instruction code. However, Lumley does not teach (or even suggest) that the user can select a signal corresponding to an instruction map. The multiplexers 31 and 33 and the logic array 32 of Lumley do not output map selecting bits as shown in Fig. 5 of Applicant's claimed invention, but only outputs the 8 data instructions as shown in Fig. 9 of Lumley. Namely, a user cannot select the instruction map in Lumley because a map selecting bit is not assigned in Lumley.

Also, the Examiner asserts that AAPA discloses a user instruction selector selecting or changing the micro-instructions of the micro-ROM in response to a selection by a user so as to change the operation of an instruction word. However, as shown in Fig. 1 of the AAPA, the micro instructions outputted from the micro-ROM are not inputted to the user instruction selector but inputted to an arithmetic and logic unit (ALU) and various registers.

Therefore, neither Lumley, nor the AAPA teaches or suggests the combination of steps recited above in independent claim 3 (as amended). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this art grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 5 and 6, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 3, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 5 and 6 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 3. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 09/927,398
Art Unit: 2812

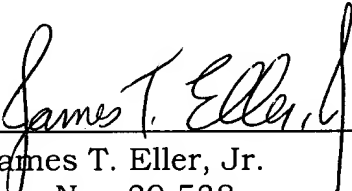
Attorney Docket No. 0763-0190P
Amendment filed July 15, 2004
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


James T. Eller, Jr.
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Attachment: Two (2) Replacement Drawing Sheets